

# Autism Foundation of Tennessee

The Autism Foundation of Tennessee (AFT) was founded in 2008 to address the problem of the lack of resources for children diagnosed with autism in Middle Tennessee. The AFT provides urgently needed Applied Behavioral Analysis, Occupational Therapy and Speech Therapy services to children and adolescents on the autism spectrum. The AFT is one of the few providers in the area that accepts TennCare, the Tennessee Medicaid insurance program. The AFT also offers a greatly-reduced rate for children who do not have insurance coverage. As stated by one client,

*“Every single place I called asked the same question, “What insurance do you have? I told them my son didn’t have insurance and was considered uninsurable due to a pre-existing condition of autism. I can’t tell you how many places hung up on me. By the time I called the AFT, I was braced for the worse. I heard the voice on the other end say ‘that’s ok, we’ll work with you. We’re here to help.’”*

In addition to the therapy services offered, the AFT conducts regular Social Skills Group sessions each Saturday to help children better communicate and socialize with their peers. The Autism Foundation is also in the beginning stages of starting a school for children on the spectrum who do not seem to thrive in a normal school setting.

The AFT strives to be the premier provider of state-of-the-art intervention and support services for children in Tennessee and surrounding areas who have been diagnosed with autism and similar developmental disabilities.

